

MARY HARTMAN,
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EPISODE #51

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by

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FINAL DRAFT
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARY	LOUISE LASSER
LORETTA	MARY KAY PLACE
MARTHA	DODY GOODMAN
CATHY	DEBRALEE SCOTT
FOLEY	BRUCE SOLOMON
STEVE	ED BEGLEY, JR.
KATE WALTERS	

SETS

ACT I: SCENE 1
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STEVE'S ATTIC
(Steve, Kate, Cathy)

ACT I: SCENE 2
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SHUMWAY KITCHEN
(Mary, Martha, Loretta, Cathy)

ACT II
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SAME, FOLLOWING
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ACT III
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SAME, FOLLOWING
(Mary, Martha, Loretta, Cathy)

ACT IV
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MARY'S KITCHEN
(Mary, Foley, Cathy)

ACT ONESCENE 1STEVE'S ATTIC

REPLAY FROM EPISODE #50, ACT IV,
PAGE 33, KATE: "I am so glad I
let my agent talk me into that
appearance on the Johnny Tilson
Show!" -- THRU END OF ACT, THEN
CONTINUING...

KATE

(GRABBING BLANKET, EMBARRASSED) I'm Kate.

CATHY

I know.

STEVE GETTING UP, SCRAMBLING TO
THE DOOR, SAYING IN SIGN LANGUAGE:
"DONT'GO! WAIT A MINUTE -- "

CATHY

(STARTING TO CRY) What do you mean,
don't go? Do you want me to join the
party?

STEVE TRYING TO PICK UP THE DROPPED
GROCERIES.

CATHY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I... interrupted! (AND SHE
BOLTS FOR THE DOOR)

CUT TO:

SCENE 2

SHUMWAY KITCHEN

MARY, MARTHA AND LORETTA OVER COFFEE
AND A PLATE OF BLUEBERRY PASTRY.

MARTHA

(EXCITEDLY) Oh, it's so long since I
planned a shower and Cathy will be so
thrilled. We'll have just her closest
friends and her favorite things for
refreshments --

MARY

This is very good. Packaged or
refrigerated?

MARTHA

Refrigerator. You know, you crack it
open and that little man jumps out?

LORETTA

I never had a bridal shower. Of course,
me and Charlie kind of did it on the spur
of the moment. My Daddy was fit to be
tied, seein' as how he was only a coupla
years older than Charlie hisself.

MARTHA

Well, I think when a girl gets married --
at least, for the first time -- it should
be something special, don't you?

MARY

Why do you keep saying for the first time?

MARTHA

Well, she's never been married before,
has she?

MARY

No. But when you say the "first" time
it sounds like you think there'll be
other times?

MARTHA

Mary, bite your tongue!

MARY

Why? You're the one who said -- (ANOTHER
THOUGHT) -- now isn't that ridiculous,
"bite your tongue."

MARTHA

Well, I'm not the first person to say it.

MARY

I know. But isn't it a stupid thought.
Why would anyone deliberately bite their
own tongue? Even if they're told to. I
think language is half the problem with
communicating.

LORETTA

(EATING, PAYING NO ATTENTION) The closest
thing I ever had to a shower was my Mama
tuckin' this folded bus ticket in my hand
and sayin', if you find out you've made the
worst mistake of your life, don't be afraid
to come home. 'Cause we still love you.

MARTHA

(TO MARY) That reminds me. Your father's already given Cathy her plane ticket to California -- or at least, promised to pay for it -- and I don't want her to think we're just getting rid of her. I want her to know how happy we are for her -- and to start out in life with a lift.

LORETTA

Are you kiddin'? She's already so many feet off the ground with that boy, Steve, I don't think she'll ever touch ground again!

MARTHA

Mary -- will you help me do the phoning? We can have the shower here tonight at seven before Steve and Cathy leave for Hollywood! I'll do the baking --

MARY

(SNAPPING TO) And I'll make the coffee and punch --

LORETTA

And I'll entertain!

MARTHA

Thank you! We can ask Joyce Cutler and Brenda Twisky and...

MARY

(REACHING OUT FOR MARTHA'S HAND) You know, Ma, it may be a last minute thing, but I'm really glad you're doing this. I think it's really sweet and nice... and not just for Cathy, but for all of us. It gives us all a sense of a new beginning and being together --

CATHY TEARING IN THE BACK DOOR,
READY TO BREAK.

CATHY

(SHOUTS) Don't talk to me!!

MARY

(ON HER FEET) Cathy, what's wrong?

CATHY

I told you not to talk to me!

MARTHA

(GOING TO HER DAUGHTER) Honey, I'm your mother.

CATHY

What's that supposed to be -- news?

(ABSENTLY, SHE GOES FOR A GLASS OF WATER)

MARY

I think she's upset. (GOES TO HER) I'm right, aren't I, honey? You're upset.

CATHY TURNS IN THE MIDDLE OF HER
DRINK AND BEGINS TO CRY. THE WATER
FALLS OUT OF HER MOUTH.

MARY (CONT'D)

I knew it.

MARY AND MARTHA HELP TO DRY CATHY
OFF.

MARTHA

Poor darling. What happened? Was it
Steve? Did something happen with Steve?

CATHY

(CRYING CONVULSIVELY) I can't stand
it. (SOB) I just can't stand it. (SOB)
I went to his apartment. (SOB) And I
found him -- I found him -- (SOB)

LORETTA

In bed with another woman!

MARY

No, Loretta!

CATHY RELEASES A BIG SOB.

MARY (CONT'D)

Yes, Loretta.

CATHY

His hands were all over her! That flat-
chested actress from New York. Oh, God!
God, what did I do to deserve this?
(SHE RUNS UPSTAIRS)

MARTHA

She didn't do anything to deserve it.

MARY

(A BEAT) Who does?

FADE OUT.

ACT TWOSAME - FOLLOWING

THE THREE WOMEN JUST KIND OF HUNG
IN SPACE, NO ONE REALLY KNOWING
WHAT TO SAY... OR DO.

LORETTA

Well, there goes the shower.

MARY

I can't believe it.

MARTHA

What are we going to do?

MARY

He was always such a quiet boy, so
polite...

LORETTA

That's what everybody said about Davey
Jessup before he killed five people,
eight chickens and two goats.

MARY

You're right, that's what they always
say right after something tragic happens.
It's always those kind of people, the
people you'd never suspect.

MARTHA

I've got to go up to her, I've got to
comfort her --

MARY

Ma, she said she wanted to be left alone.

MARTHA

What does she know? Oh, I'm so miserable
I don't know what to do!

LORETTA

Charlie's always loud and laughin' -- I
guess it makes you feel safe when you think
about it.

MARTHA

And to think I trusted that boy! I
liked him! I even talked George into
liking him!

MARY

It's going to be all right --

MARTHA

That's easy for you to say. Cathy isn't
your baby daughter.

MARY

She's my sister.

LORETTA

And I'm her friend.

MARY

She'll get over it.

MARTHA

She won't.

MARY

It'll hurt for a while. I mean, it is a shock -- we all recognize that -- and, of course, it hurts. But the hurt will pass, and she'll get over it.

LORETTA

Gee, Mary, you are so deep. That sounded just like something Dr. Joyce Brothers might say.

MARY

It did?

LORETTA

Yeah. You really do have a way of seein' the truth in things -- especially in pain.

MARY

Well, you know, I've watched a lot of psychologists guesting on talk shows; they really try to help people while they sell their books.

LORETTA

Well, you sure picked up their ways and their good sense.

MARTHA

Mary, you go up and talk to her.

MARY

Me? No, I respect her right to privacy, and besides... what would I say? I mean, really?

MARTHA

I don't know. But I'm not another Joyce Brothers like you are. I'd just cry and get her more upset because I'm upset.

MARY

You're not, you just think you are.

MARTHA

No, I'm a failure as a mother. Just look at both of you. In a crisis, I'm a flop.

LORETTA

Oh, no, you're not, Mrs. Shumway, you're real sweet.

MARTHA

The only thing I can do is faint. I'm no Donna Reed. Mary, you remember when she was on television.

MARY

Of course. She used to clean the kitchen with those cute little kercheifs tied around her hair, so you'd think she was working real hard?

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

And all her family used to come to her when they had problems. Of course they had easier problems. They just lost skate keys or were late for the prom.

LORETTA

Was Donna Reed the one who was married to the doctor with the eyebrow that went up whenever he had the answer to some problem that come along?

MARY

Yeah, right. And they had a terrific house. You know, I just realized it -- all my married life I've been trying to make my house look like that house on the Donna Reed Show. Of course that was in black and white and my house is in color.

MARTHA

Will you two cut this out?! What about Cathy?

MARY

Mother, you're distraught. Now just settle down. There is no point in escalating this thing into a whole big deal. I mean, any bigger than it is.

LORETTA

There you go again. I never heard such big words.

MARY

Like escalate...?

LORETTA

Yeah --

MARY

I get them from the news. You know, you hear Walter Cronkite talk, and it just kind of creeps into your vocabulary.

MARTHA

How can you talk about vocabularies when my little girl's heart is broken!

LORETTA

You know, your Mom's probably right -- we really shouldn't be leavin' her up there all alone.

MARTHA

If I could just stop crying. Mary, you go --

MARY

But what would I say to her? I've never been in that situation. (TO LORETTA)
You know, that's true, I never got turned down by anyone. Maybe I was never popular enough. I mean, to get my hopes built up... There was just Tom and I married him, and that was it.

LORETTA

I got hurt a coupla times, but I can tell you the guys was the ones that wound up bein' sorry, yessir. Ooh, was they sorry.

MARY

(TO MARTHA) You really think I should go upstairs, Ma?

MARTHA

Please. You're the only one in the family who's good at communicating.

MARY

You hear that, Loretta? Ma's the third person who's said that to me. That I have some kind of... knack... for communication! I mean, it's so hard for me to believe. Like with Tom, I feel like a complete failure. But maybe he's just too close to me. Maybe I have to go farther afield...

CATHY COMES BACK, QUIETLY, EYES RED,
BUT NO LONGER CRYING.

CATHY

Hello, everybody -- I'm back. (FEELING
A LITTLE SELF-CONSCIOUS, SITS DOWN)

MARTHA

Cathy! Are you all right? You seem all right.

CATHY

I'm fine, Mother. I turned on the TV and there it was. The solution to my whole life.

MARY

Joyce Brothers was on Mike Douglas?

CATHY

No. It was an old Audrey Hepburn movie.

MARY

You saw Audrey Hepburn in a movie?

That's nice -- she always relaxes me,
too.

CATHY

Yes -- and thanks to Audrey, I now know
how I'm going to live the rest of my life.

LORETTA

How?

MARY

How was the picture?

MARTHA

What was the picture? What picture on
earth could affect the rest of your
life?

CATHY

The Nun's Story.

FADE OUT

ACT THREESAME - FOLLOWING

CATHY

No, no, no -- I'm not going to join a convent -- I couldn't anyway -- they only take Catholics.

MARY

And virgins. I think.

CATHY

I only mean -- I'm renouncing men. All men. I'm never going to date or flirt or even look at another man.

MARY

Oh, you'll have to look at them. Half of the people you see are men. Especially the couples.

LORETTA

Well, if anyone has a reason to give 'em up, it's Cathy. Imagine, findin' the man you love in bed with a naked actress. I tell you, as one entertainer thinkin' on another, I'm ashamed to be in the same business. Momentarily.

MARTHA

I don't know, it's all just going too fast for me. I don't understand how people can behave that way or talk about it...

MARY

Did she look the same as she looks on television?

CATHY

Pretty much, a little thinner.

MARTHA

Thinner? How can they look thinner than they look on television?

MARY

I heard they have all their back teeth pulled out so they have them hollow cheeks?

MARTHA

Did she say anything?

CATHY

I think she introduced herself.

LORETTA

Well, she was at least polite.

CATHY

I don't really remember. I just dropped the groceries I had in my arms...

LORETTA

You mean, you was buyin' him groceries and he did that to you??

CATHY

It was just so we could stay at his place
and cook supper there.

MARTHA

And you didn't pick up what you dropped?
With the price of food...?

MARY

Ma, please.

MARTHA

I'm sorry. It's just that I was sort of
looking forward to the shower and the
honeymoon postcards and having grandchildren...

CATHY

What shower?

LORETTA

Your mama was plannin' you a surprise.

CATHY

Oh, that's sweet. Even though there wasn't
time! I told you. Who were you going to
ask?

MARY

Well, Joyce Cutler and Brenda Twisky and...

CATHY

Never mind. I don't want to hear about it.
Bridal showers are for brides and I'm
through with men. They can all drop dead
as far as I'm concerned.

MARY

Just so you're not bitter.

CATHY

I'm not bitter. I just found myself.

MARY

Good. Mother was so afraid for you.

MARTHA

You were so upset. I thought you might hurt yourself. Or lose your mind or something.

LORETTA

You mean -- like Bonnie Hardwicke on The Guiding Promise? After Brad Thurston ran off with that fashion model who had the brain tumor?

MARTHA

I saw that. Grandpa was watching it. He liked the way she kept forgetting who everybody was and wandering out into traffic?

CATHY

I don't usually watch that stuff. But just for the record, it's not Bonnie Hardwicke who went crazy. Bonnie Hardwicke was the sister who had to adopt because her tubes were tied.

MARY

You're right -- it was Belinda Smythe who went crazy. Ma, is there any more coffee?

MARTHA

I think so...

LORETTA

Actually, I'd love some more coffee, but
I've got to be getting home. (HOBBLING
UP WITH HER CANE)

CATHY

You're walking!

LORETTA

Yeah, I've been makin' terrific progress.
(STUMBLES) Though I guess I ain't ready
for the Olympics yet.

SHE EXITS.

MARTHA

I didn't know they have events for people
with canes.

MARY

I'll get some more coffee. (POURING)

MARTHA

Mary, talk to your sister -- tell her
she's crazy.

CATHY

Mother...

MARTHA

But I don't want you to turn sour on men
and be an old maid like my sister, Rose.
You know how pitiful Rose can be.

CATHY

Mother, I'm not pitiful.

MARY

But you shouldn't turn off on a whole sex. That's half the world.

CATHY

And if you wanna know which half, I'll tell you.

MARY

Now, that is not a good attitude. That is a poor attitude. You've had poor communication with several of the opposite sex, but that doesn't mean you can't learn to communicate without becoming bruised in the process. I mean, look at it logically...

CATHY

They're all creeps. In the long run, every last one of them.

MARY

Not true! Some, perhaps. But before you make a decision which could effect your entire future, or even the next couple of weeks, stop and think.

CATHY

I'm thinking, and what I'm thinking is that I always get hurt.

MARY

Ah! But why?

CATHY

Because I always get involved with men,
and men are basically creeps.

MARY

Wrong! It's because your relationships are
built on a total lack of understanding
of your own true worth as a person.

CATHY

They are?

MARTHA

Mary, that sounds like it could have been
said by some doctor on Dinah's Place.

CATHY

Which is probably where she got it.

MARY

Not true! It's what I see when I look
at you and your relationships with...
whoever.

MARTHA

Even Steve.

MARY

Exactly. You do not encourage people, or
men, to respect your feelings... or your
future.

CATHY

You know, you probably could've had some
sort of career as a psychiatrist or a
guidance counselor...

MARY

You really think so?

CATHY

Oh, yeah. But you still haven't changed
my mind about how I feel about anything!

(AS SHE FLOUNCES OUT OF THE ROOM)

MARY

(TO MARTHA) I think that's so much more
important, don't you? That people
understand the attempt, even if you don't
get any results. (EVEN AS SHE SAYS
THEM, THE WORDS SOUND WRONG)

FADE OUT.

ACT FOURMARY'S KITCHEN

MARY COMING IN (THROUGH THE HOUSE)
TRYING TO ORGANIZE THOUGHTS IN HER
HEAD.

MARY

Dinner -- that's thawing -- the floor'll
have to wait... (RUNNING WATER IN THE
SINK) The light bulb in Heather's
bathroom -- what am I running water for?
I did the dishes.

SFX: KNOCK AT THE DOOR

MARY

Just a second, Mother. (GOES TO ANSWER)

FOLEY

(OUTSIDE) I'm not your mother.

MARY

Dennis, what are you doing here?

FOLEY

(IN UNIFORM) Just wanted to drop by on
my way to the station to tell you something.

MARY

Oh, there's a smile on your face. You're
engaged! Come on in...

FOLEY

How's that?

MARY

You and Roberta. I can tell.

FOLEY

Mary, I don't want to talk about Roberta
-- I want to talk about you!

MARY

Me? Why?

FOLEY

Because I can't stop thinking of you.
Mary, I want you to look right at me and
tell me you're not just a little bit
excited or happy or... something... that
I stopped by.

MARY

Dennis, I have a dinner to prepare...

FOLEY

Just look at me... close... and tell me
that.

MARY

But this is ridiculous. You could have
prettier girls, willing girls, unmarried
girls, girls in high school even...

FOLEY

It's you, Mary, and I'm not going to
argue about it. It's just you, that's all.

MARY

(TRYING TO THINK) Me.

FOLEY

And I'll wait, if I have to, until you realize that.

CATHY COMING IN AT THE BACK DOOR.
SHE HAS CHANGED HER HAIR STYLE, PUT
ON A NEW DRESS.

CATHY

Mary, it worked.

MARY

(REACTING IN SURPRISE TO CATHY'S
APPEARANCE) Cathy, what's happened?
You look wonderful.

FOLEY

(WITH AN ADMIRING GLANCE) Goes double
for me.

CATHY

(GLARING AT FOLEY) Who's that?

MARY

You remember Sgt. Foley.

CATHY

(CUTTING HIM DEAD) Do I?

MARY

(THROWN BY THIS) Well, of course you do.
He and I were tied up together -- as
hostages. For little Davey Jessup.

CATHY

If you want to remember him, Mary, go
right ahead. (THEN POINTEDLY) But I've
forgotten all of them.

MARY

(CONFUSED) All of them?

CATHY

I took your advice -- about understanding my own true worth. So I went shopping, bought a new dress, had my hair done, came home, looked in the mirror and decided no man I've ever met was good enough for me.

FOLEY

(TURNING ALL HIS CHARM ON CATHY) I hope that doesn't include a man you don't remember meeting?

MARY

I'm glad you're feeling better, Cathy.

CATHY

(SUDDENLY DOWN) Yeh, but what do I do now?

FOLEY

Want a suggestion?

MARY

Stay out of this, Dennis. No man's going to come between Cathy and herself again.

FOLEY

(IGNORING MARY) I'd love to take you to dinner.

CATHY

(WEAKENING) Well, I do have to eat.

MARY

No, Cathy. I'm not sure you're strong enough yet... to face men again.

CATHY

Mary, you were the one who told me not to turn off on a whole sex. You begged me to stop and think. (RESPONDING TO THE SIGNALS SHE IS GETTING FROM FOLEY)
Well, I'm thinking about going out with Sgt. Foley.

MARY

But what about the real you, Cathy -- the one who doesn't need anybody to tell her she's worth knowing.

CATHY

(LIGHTLY AS SHE LINKS HER ARM THROUGH FOLEY'S) Oh, she can come, too.

FOLEY GIVES MARY A FAREWELL NOD AND THEY EXIT, LEAVING MARY TO STARE AFTER THEM.

MARY

While the real me fixes dinner for the 5,112th time!

FADE OUT

END EPISODE #51